

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending and stand rejected. None of the claims has been amended.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner indicated consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 8, 2001, February 22, 2001, May 20, 2002, November 8, 2002, March 5, 2003, September 11, 2003, and November 6, 2003, but did not indicate consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 28, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the documents submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement by initialing the PTO-1449 form submitted therewith and attaching same to the next communication to Applicants. In addition, Examiner did not indicate consideration of document A in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 8, 2001. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of document A by initialing the previously submitted PTO-1449 form and attaching same to the next communication to Applicants.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show a “virtual private server,” a “virtual private server identifier,” and “additional processes.” Applicants respectfully traverse, on the grounds that all of these elements are shown by the drawings. As described in the specification, a virtual process (such as a virtual private server) can comprise a plurality of actual processes. In one embodiment, a virtual private server is started by executing a system initialization process. The initialization process is associated with a virtual private server identifier, for example by storing the identification number of the initialization process and the

virtual private server identifier in a data structure in computer memory (3:8-10). The initialization process can create additional processes by executing system calls. These additional processes can be associated with the same virtual private server identifier as was associated with the parent initialization process.

A virtual private server is shown, for example, in FIG. 1 as Initialization Process 1 (reference number 107), Descendent Process 1 (reference number 108), and Descendent Process 2 (reference number 108). A data structure that stores an identification number of an initialization process and a virtual private server identifier is shown, for example, in FIG. 1 as Association Table 127. Additional processes are shown, for example, in FIG. 1 as Descendent Process 1 (reference number 108), and Descendent Process 2 (reference number 108).

The Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor, and the undersigned attorney held a telephone interview on July 14, 2004. Applicants thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the telephone interview. The substance of this interview is set forth herein. The rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda was discussed. It was agreed that Ikeda fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1. The Examiner's supervisor suggested that the undersigned attorney submit a request for reconsideration.

Claims 1-25¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 1 recites:

A method in a computer system for associating identifiers with virtual processes,
the method comprising:
 for each virtual process, starting a separate first process;
 associating each first process with a separate virtual process
 identifier;

¹ Although paragraph 5 states that claims 1-25 are rejected, the specific rejection for claim 16 is not mentioned.

for each virtual process, originating additional processes included in the virtual process from the first process; and associating all processes that originate from each first process with the associated virtual process identifier.

The claimed invention associates identifiers with virtual processes. In one embodiment, a virtual process is a virtual private server, a first process is a system initialization process, and an additional process is a descendant process.

Ikeda does not disclose, suggest, or teach the claimed elements. Ikeda discusses transferring a process to a physical processor and/or virtual processor corresponding to that process' destination logical processor (abstract). Ikeda discusses using process identifiers to identify a plurality of processes that make up a user program to be executed (2:26-28).

Assuming, for the sake of argument, that this plurality of processes represents a virtual process, Ikeda does not disclose "for each virtual process, starting a separate first process." Ikeda merely discloses executing the virtual process itself (i.e., executing the plurality of processes that make up the user program).

Similarly, as agreed during the telephone interview, Ikeda does not disclose "associating each first process with a separate virtual process identifier; for each virtual process, originating additional processes included in the virtual process from the first process; and associating all processes that originate from each first process with the associated virtual process identifier."

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Ikeda. Independent claims 11, 18, and 23-25² also recite similar features and are also patentable over Ikeda for at least the foregoing reasons.

The claims not specifically mentioned above incorporate the features of their respective base claims and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now allowable over the cited art of record and request that the Examiner allow this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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² Although paragraphs 16 and 18 respectively state that claims 11 and 23-25 are dependent, Applicants respectfully note that claims 11 and 23-25 are in fact independent.